

**MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS  
WESTERN DISTRICT**

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COMPLETE TITLE OF CASE:

STATE OF MISSOURI,

Respondent

v.

CHRISTOPHER D. CRAIG,

Appellant

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DOCKET NUMBER WD78685

**MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS  
WESTERN DISTRICT**

DATE: May 10, 2016

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Appeal From:

Circuit Court of Platte County, MO  
The Honorable James Walter Van Amburg, Judge

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Appellate Judges:

Division Three  
Gary D. Witt, P.J., James Edward Welsh, and Anthony Rex Gabbert, JJ.

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Attorneys:

Matthew Radefeld, Clayton, MO

Counsel for Appellant

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Attorneys:

Daniel McPherson, Jefferson City, MO

Counsel for Respondent

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**MISSOURI APPELLATE COURT OPINION SUMMARY  
MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, WESTERN DISTRICT**

**STATE OF MISSOURI, Respondent, v.  
CHRISTOPHER D. CRAIG, Appellant**

**WD78685**

**Platte County**

Before Division Three Judges: Witt, P.J., Welsh, and Gabbert, JJ.

Christopher D. Craig appeals the circuit court's judgment convicting him of attempted enticement of a child and attempted statutory rape in the first degree after a bench trial. Craig contends that, because he never took a substantial step to communicate with an actual child or a law enforcement officer masquerading as a child, the circuit court erred in finding him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of attempted enticement of a child and attempted statutory rape in the first degree.

**Affirmed.**

**Division Three holds:**

The evidence established that Craig took substantial steps calculated to put himself into direct contact with a child so that he could carry out his clear intent to persuade, solicit, coax, entice, or lure a child to engage in sexual conduct. Although he never communicated directly with a child or someone posing as a child, he took substantial steps that he believed would allow him to do so. Craig also took substantial steps towards having sexual intercourse with a person he believed to be under the age of 14. The circuit court, therefore, did not err in finding Craig guilty of attempted enticement of a child and attempted statutory rape in the first degree.

Opinion by James Edward Welsh, Judge

May 10, 2016

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